TECHNICAL NOTES

LAKE STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE · · FOREST SERVICE

No. 470

Commercial Forest Land in Minnesota Counties by Forest Type

Softwood timber types--pine, spruce, fir, tamarack, and cedar--now occupy approximately one-fourth of Minnesota's commercial forest acreage. The aspen-birch covers the most area of any of the types, making up one-third of the total commercial forest land. Of the rest, about one-fourth is nonstocked and 17.5 percent is in hardwood and oak types. These figures are from the forest survey of Minnesota made during 1947-1953 by the Office of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, the Lake States Forest Experiment Station, and other cooperators.

Forest type areas were determined by mapping sample blocks in the heavily wooded northern counties and examining sample plots in the southern Minnesota counties. Total commercial forest land, based on more intensive sampling, has a standard error of about 2 percent per million acres. The forest type acreages are subject to greater errors. The accuracy of the estimates varies with the amount of acreage reported--the greater the area the more reliable the figure. For some of the very lightly wooded counties the forest type acreages may represent only a relative distribution rather than precise figures.

(In thousands of acres)

County	Total commercial forest land area [1]	Forest type [2]: White and red pine [3]	Jack pine [4]	Swamp conifers [5]	Mixed hardwoods [6]	Oak	Aspen-birch	Non-stocked [7]
Aitkin	894	5	2	110	209	4	208	356
Anoka	46	-	-	2	4	31	2	7
Becker	348	9	27	26	56	36	143	51
Beltrami	1,220	15	51	179	112	5	351	507
Benton	49	-	-	-	13	13	12	11
Big Stone	3	-	-	-	1	*	-	2
Blue Earth	38	-	-	-	23	8	1	6
Brown	21	-	-	-	13	5	*	3
Carlton	369	5	3	36	42	4	154	125
Carver	26	-	-	-	16	6	*	4
Cass	1,018	50	68	77	71	40	411	301
Chippewa	6	-	-	-	3	1	-	2
Chisago	68	1	-	2	26	20	4	15
Clay	19	-	-	-	9	3	3	4
Clearwater	380	3	22	24	28	5	180	118
Cook	723	32	55	247	24	-	270	95
Cottonwood	4	-	-	-	3	*	-	1
Crow Wing	459	13	79	16	40	49	109	153
Dakota	37	-	-	-	13	17	1	6
Dodge	14	-	-	-	7	4	*	3
Douglas	42	-	-	1	10	16	7	8
Faribault	14	-	-	-	9	2	-	3
Fillmore	93	*	-	-	12	72	3	6
Freeborn	14	-	-	-	7	4	*	3
Goodhue	65	-	-	-	16	38	3	8
Grant	5	-	-	-	3	1	-	1
Hennepin	31	-	-	-	15	10	1	5
Houston	122	-	*	-	17	95	3	7
Hubbard	441	3	84	16	14	14	226	84
Isanti	65	1	1	3	5	39	2	14
Itasca	1,458	35	43	286	133	*	681	280
Jackson	8	-	-	-	4	2	-	2
Kanabec	166	*	-	2	20	16	84	44
Kandiyohi	34	-	-	-	18	9	1	6
Kittson	104	-	-	-	18	3	55	28

(Footnotes and continuation of table on back of sheet)

(In thousands of acres)

County	Total commercial forest land area 1/	Forest type 2/ White and red pine 3/	Jack pine 4/	Swamp conifers 5/	Mixed hardwoods 6/	Oak	Aspen-birch	Non-stocked 7/
Koochiching	1,522	6	15	671	67	-	310	453
Lac Qui Parle	9	-	-	-	6	1	-	2
Lake	1,139	27	140	401	56	-	358	157
Lake of the Woods	555	1	31	153	19	-	89	262
Le Suer	25	-	-	-	11	9	1	4
Lincoln	3	-	-	-	2	*	-	1
Lyon	5	-	-	-	3	1	-	1
Mahnomen	145	1	4	2	30	16	63	29
Marshall	226	-	*	2	31	10	99	84
Martin	4	-	-	-	2	1	-	1
McLeod	12	-	-	-	7	3	*	2
Meeker	17	-	-	-	10	4	*	3
Mille Lacs	171	1	-	3	45	24	60	38
Morrison	243	3	7	3	27	52	95	56
Mower	13	-	-	-	7	4	*	2
Murray	4	-	-	-	3	*	-	1
Nicollet	19	-	-	-	11	6	*	2
Nobles	2	-	-	-	1	*	-	1
Norman	41	-	-	-	12	5	15	9
Olmsted	47	-	-	-	9	35	1	2
Otter Tail	244	-	*	9	73	58	46	58
Pennington	63	-	-	-	8	7	37	11
Pine	526	1	7	21	63	16	267	151
Pipestone	1	-	-	-	1	*	-	*
Polk	108	-	-	3	25	16	44	20
Pope	15	-	-	-	8	3	*	4
Ramsey	7	*	-	-	2	3	*	2
Red Lake	53	-	-	-	4	3	34	12
Redwood	15	-	-	-	8	3	-	4
Renville	16	-	-	-	9	5	*	2
Rice	21	-	-	-	8	11	*	2
Rock	2	-	-	-	1	*	-	1
Roseau	370	-	32	44	45	5	128	116
St. Louis	3,234	79	267	821	172	2	1,360	533
Scott	26	-	-	-	13	10	*	3
Sherburne	58	-	*	*	8	35	2	13
Sibley	20	-	-	-	11	6	*	3
Stearns	94	-	-	2	28	30	9	25
Steele	8	-	-	-	5	2	-	1
Stevens	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
Swift	11	-	-	-	6	1	*	4
Todd	165	-	8	3	25	45	29	55
Traverse	3	-	-	-	2	1	-	*
Wabasha	62	-	*	-	12	42	4	4
Wadena	141	*	40	2	8	12	25	54
Waseca	15	-	-	-	9	2	-	4
Washington	31	-	-	1	2	25	2	1
Watonwan	4	-	-	-	2	1	-	1
Wilkin	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	*
Winona	110	*	-	-	15	84	4	7
Wright	52	-	-	-	34	8	-	10
Yellow Medicine	11	-	-	-	7	2	-	2
State total	18,098	291	986	3,168	1,991	1,182	5,997	4,483

1/ Forest land that is (1) producing or physically capable of producing, useable crops of wood (usually sawtimber); (2) economically available now or prospectively; and (3) not withdrawn from timber utilization. County figures rounded to the nearest thousand acres.

2/ Forest type is determined by the predominance of certain key species. Predominance means that in sawtimber stands 50 percent or more of the sawlog volume is that of the key species; in poletimber stands 50 percent or more of the cordwood volume; and in restocking areas 50 percent or more of the small trees.

3/ Pine species predominating with white or red pine most common.

4/ Pine species predominating with jack pine most common.

5/ Swamp conifers (black spruce, tamarack, and cedar) and upland white spruce and balsam fir.

6/ Northern hardwood species (sugar maple, basswood, and yellow birch) or bottomland hardwood species (ash, elm, balsam poplar, and cottonwood) predominating.

7/ Lands qualifying as forest but failing to meet the specifications for sawtimber, poletimber, or restocking stands. May include grass and brush areas.

* Less than 500 acres.

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